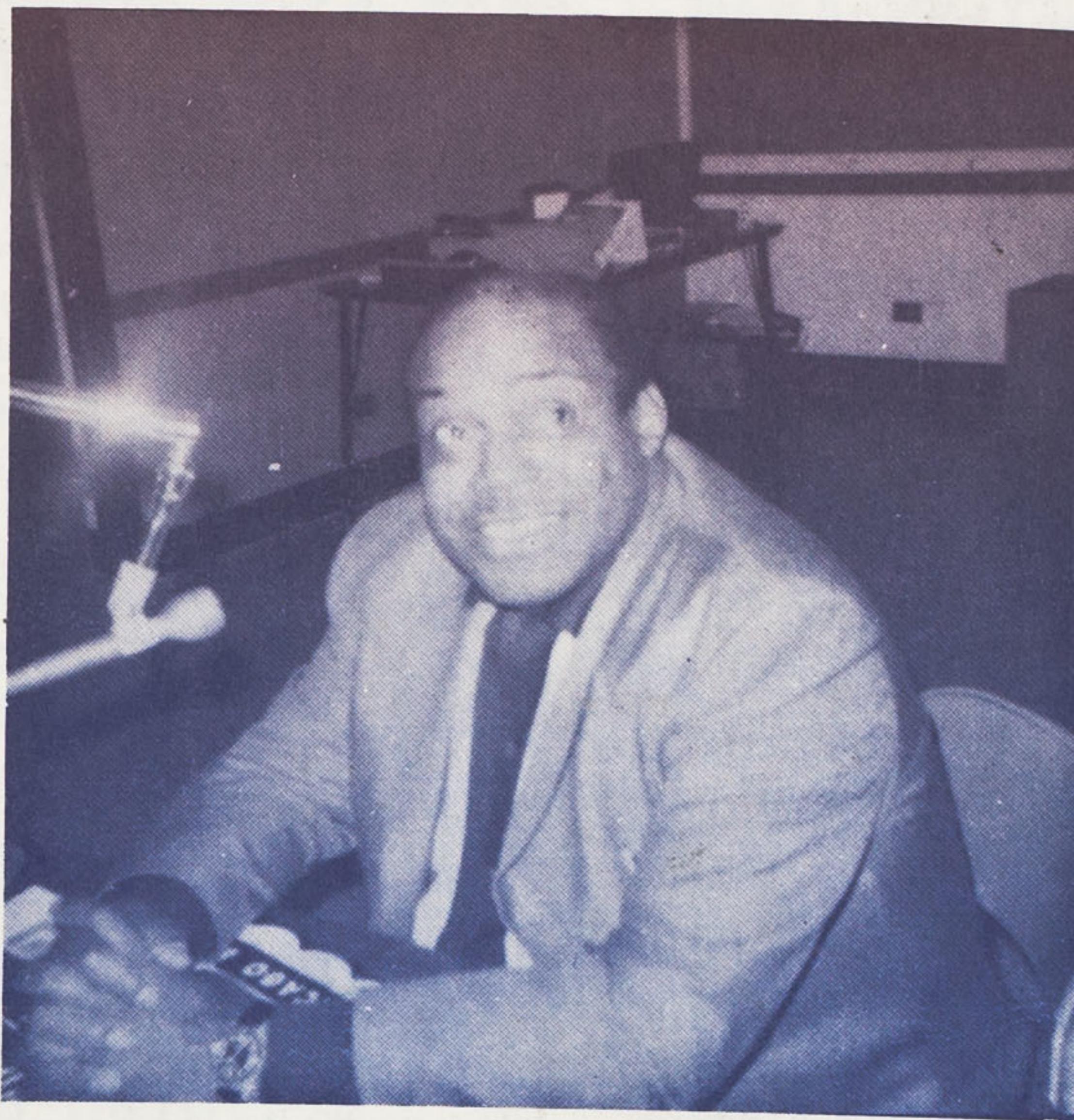




BLUE FLAME

Vol. 2, No. 9 (BF-9) Chicago, Illinois Early September, 1970

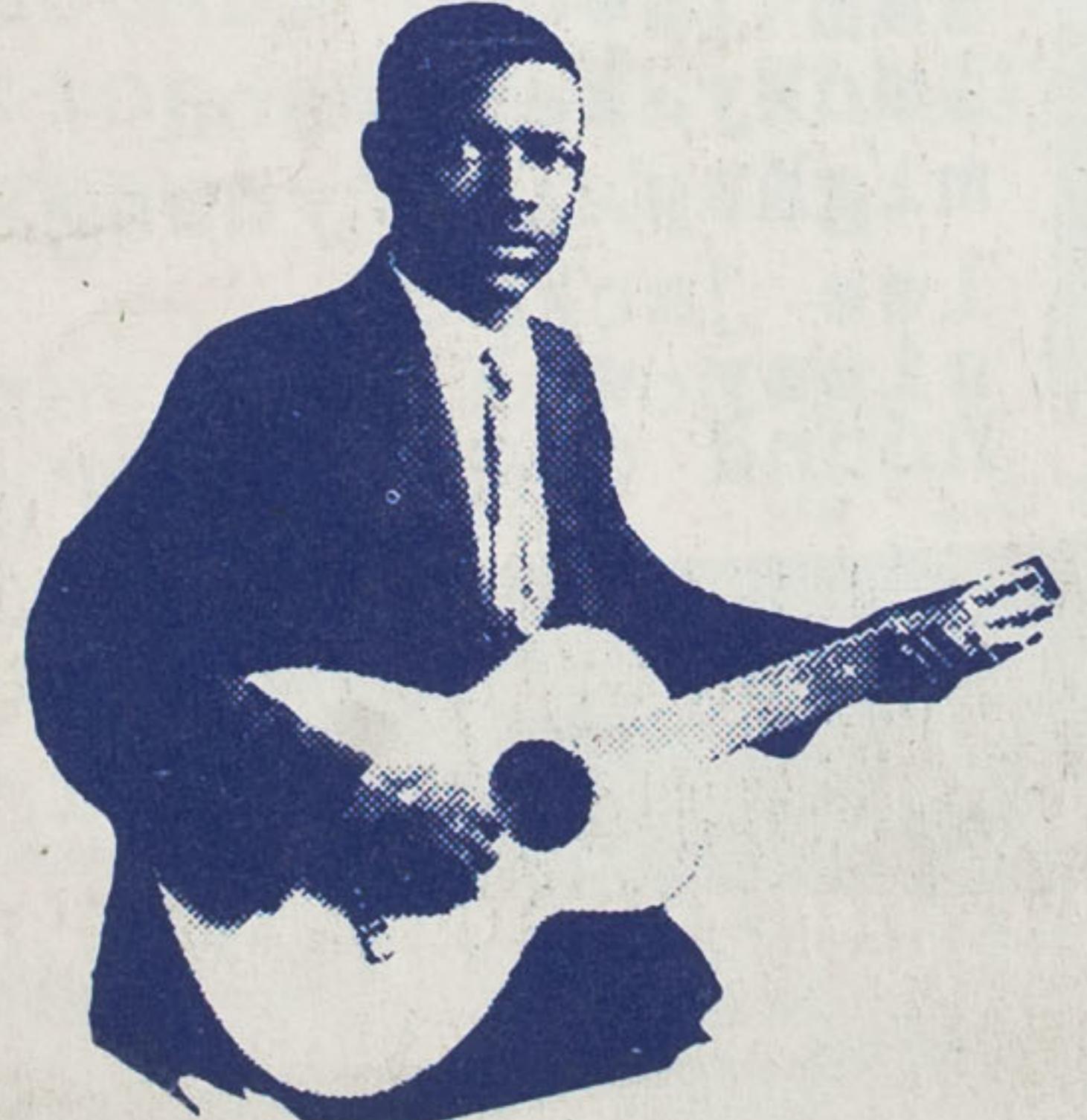


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JAZZ

In this issue: CJ STORY by Carl Jones; WILLIE DIXON: a new look; RADIO/TV GUIDE; RECORD REVIEWS; NEWS; PHOTOS; misc/etc.

Our goal--to stimulate an interest in Chicago music

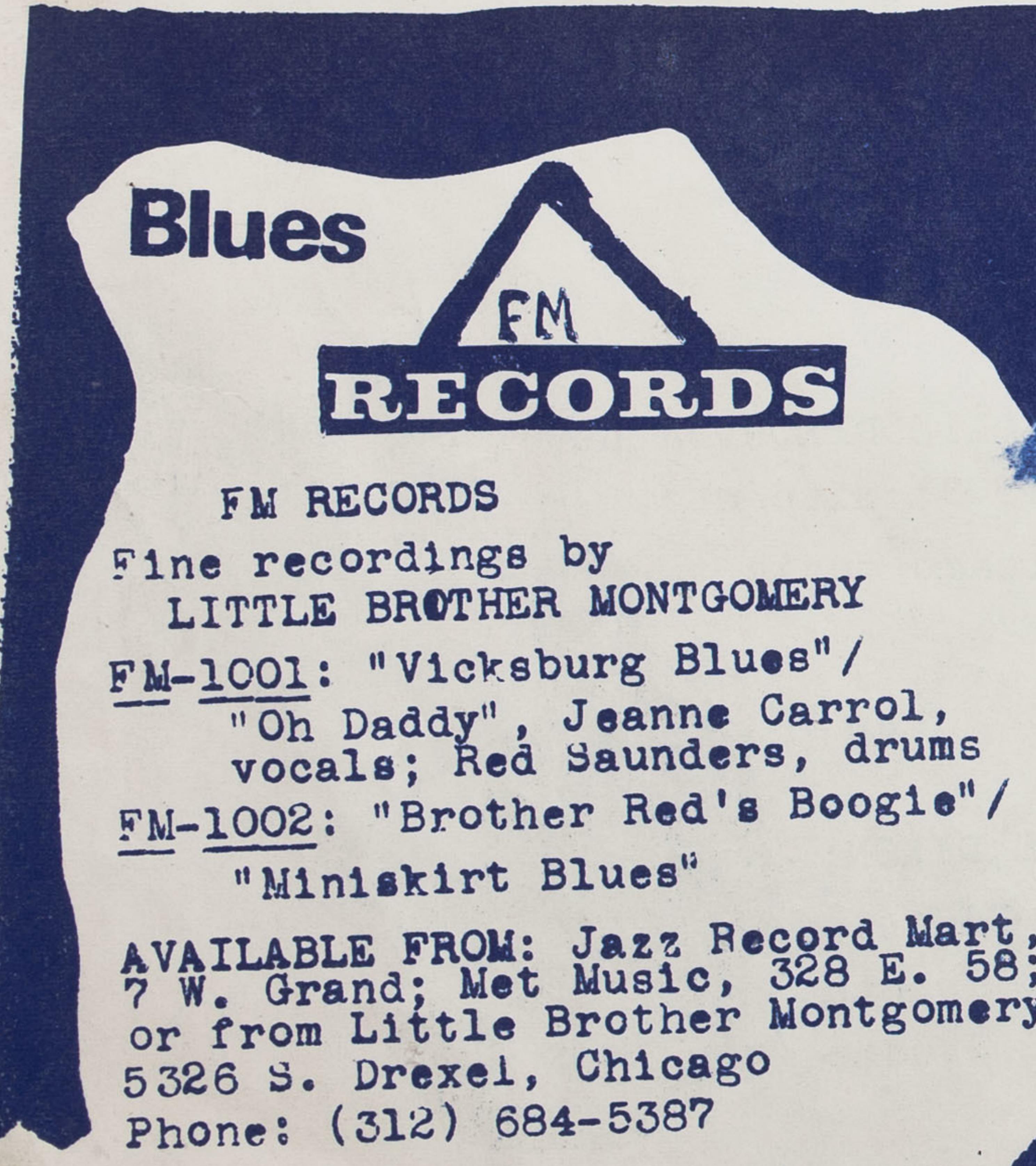


COVER PHOTOS OF WILLIE DIXON:
(left) photo courtesy Eddie
Winfield, mgr.; (right) photo
by Cary S. Baker, WNTW Studio



Willie James Dixon was born in the south in 1915, to a large family. In childhood, he was impressed by the poetry his mother, Daisy Dixon, would read to him and write. Though uneducated, Willie began to write, not knowing the influence his words would have on blues, which at that time, was made up of artists like Charley Patton, Blind Lemon Jefferson, and Robert Johnson. At this time, however, Willie had no interest in becoming a blues artist, and instead became a professional boxer and fought for many years as James Dixon. Willie being quite large, almost always overpowered his opponent and concluded that fighting wasn't for him. Occasionally at the gym, he'd hear Leonard Kaster play and picked up the bass one day and joined in. In Willie's words, "the fiddle didn't fight back". He and Kaster played in what was known as The Big 3 Trio, and produced a few hits in the 40s. Willie co-wrote much of the material and then went on in the world of music to the music relavent to he, and the other members of the society of his time and place---the blues. One thing noticeable about Willie's lyrics are the biblical quality---"Roll Me Babe, just like grandma rolls her dough" As in the bible, Willie supports every line with associations typical of the situations he'd encountered throughout his life, as he still does. As Rich Goldstein says in the cover quote, Willie was the first to express the forbidden with the permissible. One can easily find exceptions---Washboard Sam, Charley Patton, Even Victoria Spivey. but their impact was not nearly so strong as that of Willie. Blues enthusiasts look at Willie as not being the greatest in a field (Walter on harp, say, or BB on guitar) and sometimes do not appreciate his lyrics, which outdo all. Willie's lyrics are relavent to all in their own way--and that's the power his blues have over those of artists like Magic Sam, Howlin' Wolf, and Johnny Shines. Some recent projects taken on by Dixon are 1) a management firm, Soul Productions, who book great blues artists such as Koko Taylor, a discovery of Willie; Hound Dog Taylor; Sippy Wallace; and 2) his new band of 1½ years of playing together, Chicago Blues All-Stars, and 3) a contract for 3 LPs on the Columbia label, which he has yet recorded and Columbia has yet to release all of. Willie IS the Blues, no matter what the public turns to---Led Zeppelin, who don't impress me except for Robert Plant's authentic blues screaming & moaning, have Willie to thank for not only his own compositions, but their own compositions which have Dixon "associations" in and within them, and in the heads of everybody. When Willie, in one of his songs, sings "I am the blues", he is nondisputably so.

Blues



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PART TWO:

C. J. Colt & Firma Records

BY CARL JONES

I began my interest in music during the early days of an era of great music when blacks first began to record the blues. It all started in a small Texas town called Waxahachie, under a great man of music, Mr. RB Robinson. He was a great music teacher who loved music and children. I studied cornet, trombone, and banjo under Mr. Robinson and in years later became a singer in his band. At that time I sang pop love songs and blues. My first broadcast was over the local station in Waxahachie and the band was booked for dances and parties. Later I joined Red Calhoun and joined his band as a singer and we broadcasted over radio station WRR. This was in the big band era of the 30s and 40s. From Red's band I came to Chicago as vocalist with the Carolina Cotton Pickers. It was here in Chicago that I met Richard Jones with whom I made my first recording on Mercury Records, "Foggy City". These were the first songs I had written myself along with "Trouble in Mind" and "Careless Love". When I wrote these songs, I began my love for blues. About this time, I met WILLIE DIXON who is The Blues Man who helped me with one of my blues numbers, and he had a way with blues!! I do think that Willie & myself had lost more original blues to get lost in the shuffle than any other blues writers have. After my recordings with Mercury, I learned of the great talent in Chicago among my people, and the hard time they had getting recording and gaining public exposure gave me a desire to write more and record some of this talent, as to get them heard more. I had a real hard time here in Chicago trying to get the local DJs to play the blues I'd recorded but I kept on trying and soon I got them played. The artist--Phillis Smilley, soon signed with Duke Ellington's band and was a great singer with him. After sixteen years in the recording business, I feel my desire has been fulfilled, and every day as I listen to some of the artists, I think how that they'd possibly never be heard if I hadn't the desire to help.

Note that CJ has a fantastic number of Chicago blues singles by Eddie Shaw, Hound Dog Taylor, Earl Hooker, Betty Everett, Honesick James, Little Mack, Carl Jones, Rudy Robinson, etc. and these singles are available from BF or CJ Records, 4827 S. Prairie, Chicago 60615 USA for \$1.00 plus postage, 15¢. Watch for an LP anthology compiled and annotated by Blue Flame on the Blue Flame label, send \$4.98 and reserve your copy of THE CJ ROOTS OF CHICAGO BLUES SERIES, VOL. I with all and more of the above vein of artists. The catalogue # on this LP is BFL-1001. csb

BLUE FLAME RECORDS

CJ RECORDS proudly announces the addition of BLUE FLAME RECORDS to its group of labels.

The new single on CJ, Lee Jackson doing "Pleading for Love" and the first Blue Flame LP, an anthology of CJ's blues are now distributed by United.

UNITED RECORD DISTRIBUTORS

RAY FLERLAGE BLUES INTERNATIONAL

**FRIDAY 7 PM ON
WIXFM 106 FM**

*BF Calendar***RADIO GUIDE**

We have seconded a motion to expand BF's radio-TV page to all USA and all r&b, folk music, and jazz broadcasted throughout the world. With most of our listings still in Chicago, we ask for your help in tracking down broadcasts or interest to BLUE FLAME.



New Orleans has a Dixie jazz program sponsored by the NEW ORLEANS JAZZ CLUB heard every Sunday night at 9:00 on WWL 870 kc. Chicago's jazz scene includes NIGHTWATCH (WXFM 106/Thurs 7 PM) with Ray Flerlage, Harriet Choice of DownBeat (WRSV 101.9/Sun 11 PM), Howard Taylor (WXRT 93.1/Sun 11), JAZZ DEN (24 hrs WEDM 97.9), and of course JAZZ PATIO with enterprising black air personality, Daddy-O-Daylie. Soul sounds fine on FM with Soulful Bill Tyson's accordingly named program, THE BILL TYSON SHOW (WXRT/Sat 11 PM), although WGRT (950 kc) and WVON (1450 kc) are still the Top of the R&B Top 40 Crop. In Milwaukee, Chess Records operates WNOV (760 kc), a 24 hour soul station. For twenty-two years, Mr. Big Bill Hill has hovered over WOPA's airwaves (1490 kc) and played blues and soul music, originally live from the Chicago clubs including his own Copacabana Club. Still today, Mr. Hill is "heard" over WOPA nightly at 12. If this isn't enough, or if your AM radio is in for repairs, try RED HOT 'N' BLUES "as viewed" every Friday night from 10:30 to 1 AM from the top of the Board of Trade Bldg. (live) on WCIU-TV channel 26. Although it features hopelessly commercial soul ala Jackson Five, advertisers include Don's Cedar Club, a blues bar in Chicago, and the artists who perform there play live on the set. Darlene Payne's OD Girls (OPJ Records) also perform on Hill's TV show as have Little Mack, Eddie Shaw, Otis Rush, Mighty Joe Young, and Bobby Hicks ("Dails"). You're invited to dance on the set at the above time and place. Ray Flerlage, a noted blues photographer (Wolf, Muddy, Coltrane, etc.) has his own radio program entitled BLUES INTERNATIONAL on WXFM (106/Fri 7 PM) on which he plays Lightnin' Hopkins to Steve Miller, best bet for such a thing. Gospel music fans wake up Sundays at 8:30 AM to watch JUBILEE SHOWCASE on channel 7 (Chicago) and they see the finest in religious soul entertainment. Rockheads, try WGHD 102.7 with nonscheduled community news broadcasts and announcers not above you. Also--TRIAD (WXFM/8 PM), RADIO FREE CHICAGO (WEAW 105 FM/midnight), and 24 hrs on WLS-FM 94.7. Top 40 suckers, WCFL 1000 kc, and WLS 890 kc, although the Top 40 in Miami is quite good (WQAM 560 kc, WFUN 780 kc). If you should be going to Jamaica, tune in Calypso Corner daily at 6:55 AM on RJR, for a coming variant of real music.

BF THANKS YOU.

RADIO & TV PEOPLE, advertise in BF for under \$20, write for rates!!

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NEW ORLEANS NEWS: The JAZZ MUSEUM has opened on Bourbon Street, and it costs only \$0.50 to get in. Featured are ads and artifacts that trace the history of jazz through folk blues, dixie, KC, Chi, and all influences (none are spared). One can see Louis Armstrong's first cornet, and the first jazz record (78 RPM). Others are seen upon request and are kept locked in the archives. There's a shop too that carries books, records, and magazines (including BF), and if you go, say hi from us to Justin A. Winston of the museum. One can hear 12 programs of 12 different styles of jazz in soundproof booths, and what's more, the museum has its own magazine, the SECOND LINE. It is located at Bourbon & Conti Sts. in the French quarter in the same building as ECONOMY HALL, a noted Dixieland club. Down Bourbon st. are the headshops, Creole restaurants, Pete Fountain's place, and Al Mirt's Club. Also seen are the House of Blue Lights, and more than a few topless/bottomless establishments. Hear the museum's radio program (see radio guide in this issue), and join the NEW ORLEANS JAZZ CLUB for \$5-\$100 which entitles you to many cool events and a subscription to the 2nd LINE free. Watch BLUE FLAME for the latest in New Orleans news and watch for photos in BF-11.

I JUST HEARD Lucky Peterson, the 4-year old organist that Willie Dixon, Sam Lay, Ed Winfield, and Fred Below were talking about. This kid is too much. Can you imagine a four-year-old playing organ, piano, and SINGING the blues. He recorded recently with Dixon's Chicago Blues All-Stars. He'll be four until December, and doesn't start school until next year! Watch for a big cover story on Lucky in a future BF, and watch for an interview on Cary's show on WNTH 88.1 FM. He's been recording since age 2 1/2!

SPIVEY LP 1011
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BLUES WORLD
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COMING IN BF-10:
ARRIVAL OF A YOUNG GIANT:
Lucky Peterson
CHESS FALLS DOWN
A LOOK AT CHICAGO SOUL
THE MAN BEHIND JIMMY REED:
Al Smith
COMPLETE(R) RADIO/TV GUIDE FOR THE FALL

News
Record Reviews
Opinion
Interviews
Letters
Send 10¢

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Delmark/7 W. Grand/60610/222-1470 Bob Koester S
 All Points/1827 S. Michigan Ave/60616 Mel London U
 CJ, Colt, Firma, Blue Flame/4827 S. Prairie/60615/AT5-1616 Carl Jones U
 Torrid/1411 S. Michigan/60605/939-7215 Al Smith S
 Bamboo, Mr. Chand/1321 S. Michigan/60605/Gene Chandler U
 FM/5326 S. Drexel/60615/Little Brother Montgomery *
 Ebony/(address unknown)/Saint Louis Jimmy U
 Dud Sounds/ Hot Spot Record 1/O. L. Coleman U
 Pinnacle/5338 S. Wells/WA4-2974 Franz Jackson, Orig. Jass All-Stars *
 La Salle/8959 S. Oglesby/60617/375-4276 Jump Jackson *
 OPJ/6712 S. Carpenter/60621/AB4-9592 Odie Payne, Jr. *
 Blackbird/607 W. Deming/60614/GR2-8649 Leon A. Kelert ?
 Atomic "H"/(address unknown)/Eddie Clearwater *
 Lamarr, Down to Earth, More Soul/746 E. 76/60619 U
 USA/3035 W. 47/60632/254-4612 Paul Glass A
 Sendar/3339 N. Oleander/Raymond Graffia L
 Satch/9147 S. Michigan/60619/785-6035 Mrs. Johnny Finch U
 ALSO: Salem, KM, Weis, Duo, etc.
 U means dist. by United, S means dist. by Summit, A is Allstate, L is London, * means no distributor, and ? means unknown distributor
 Any of the above would appreciate your correspondence, and it would help BLUE FLAME if you'd mention seeing them here.

BF leans toward the smaller label as the means of survival for Chicago blues and soul. Many of the above labels have their own "studic" in a living room or basement and whenever they have a need to record, they can click it on and record when the stimulus strikes. Recently I talked to one of the above who was going to move to L.A. if things didn't sell here. We, here, appreciate these labels, and hope you do too.

CHICAGO



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BF-9

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS
 HARVEY HILL, long one I wanted to meet, died a few weeks before the first appearance he was to make in years---Ann Arbor. Mr. Hill is heard on Spivey and Blues Classics and has a few 78s with his own string band.
 MRS. JIM O'NEAL (nee AMY VAN SINGEL) is still on WNUR 89.3 FM although I'm not sure what time--listen and check it out. There's no bullshit on Amy's program--just blues and occasional trips.
 DELMARK proudly announces the release of SOUTHSIDE BLUES JAM by JUNIOR WELLS with BUDDY GUY, OTIS SPANN, FRED NELOW & LOUIS MYERS. YAZOO is equally proud to announce the formation of a nonreissue label, BLUE GOOSE MAGIC SAM's guitar is for sale by JIMMY "FAST FINGERS" DAWKINS if you'd be interested in owning the instrument.
 THANKS to Joel and Debbie at RED STAR PRESS, 180 N. Wacker, we now have increased circulation and are in technicolor. 641-1576

THERE ARE NO classified ads in BLUE FLAME for this issue and if there is not sufficient interest in the next issue, the service will be discontinued. Ads cost you the advertiser four pennies per word with a free word on us with purchase of twenty-five. Name your classification. No minimum. Cash only. \$1 buys 25 words. Two insertions, deduct 25¢. No checks can be handled as BF's account is not under any specific name. DISPLAY ADS cost under \$20---write for rates! Write for exchange plan.

FOR THE FIRST
 TIME ON
 FM RADIO



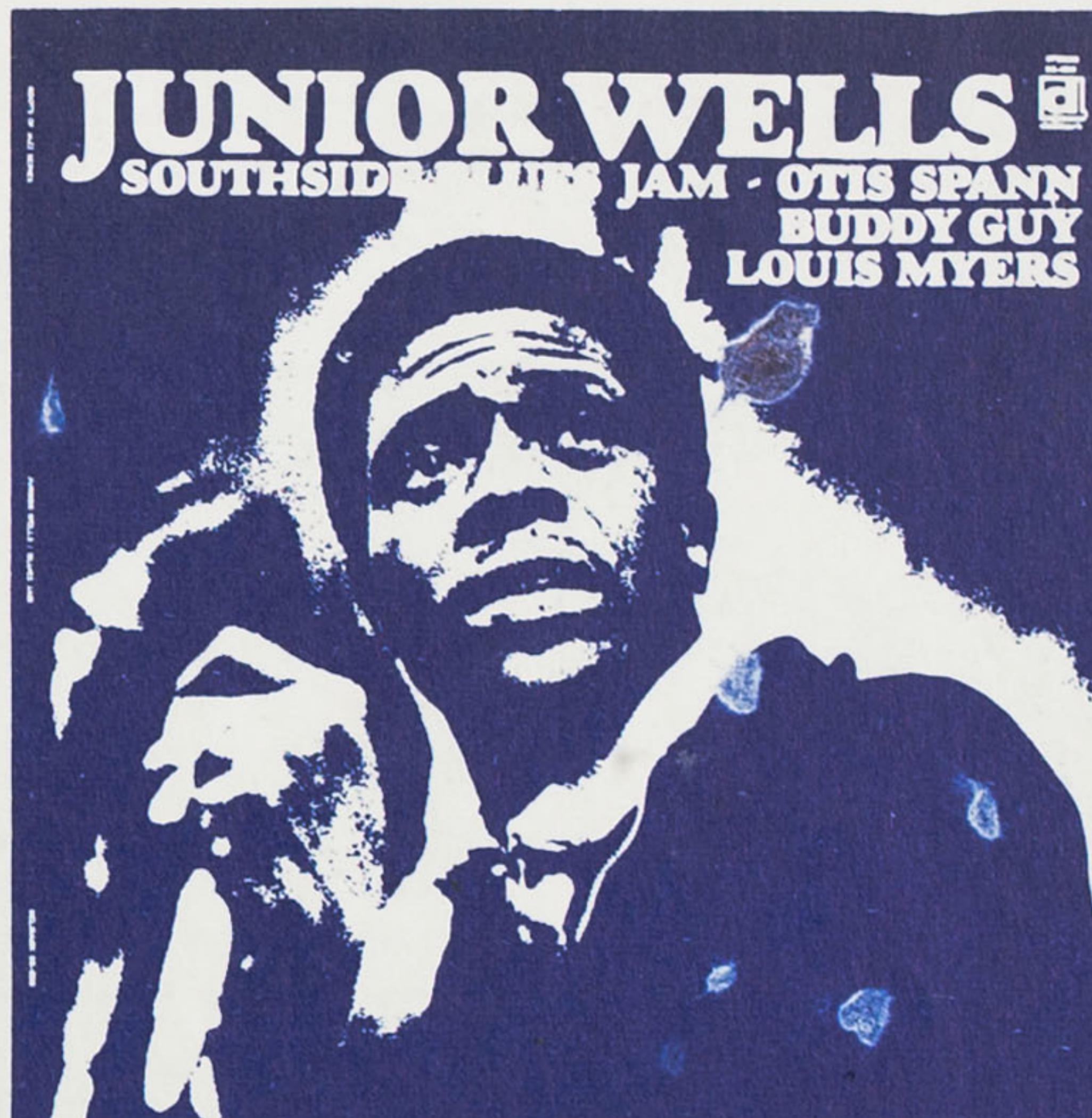
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WXRT 93.1 FM
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DELMARK STEREO DS-628

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